1/28/72

dear paul,

rather than improving at it shoul gave, mt thumb is worse, an infection apparently having set in coincidin with, whether or not related to th removal of the stitches 11 days after the chopping. so, i will limit myself for the moment to some of your legitimate complaints of 1/25, the gumuineness and sincerity of which i do not doubt and in more cases than i find comfortable, their legitimacy. however, although you think you have the thing in context, as in talking about my frustration at not being able to get PM printed, and that is true, you fail. in more than one way. inevitably there are character, personality an emotional differences between us, each is their creature as he is that of the totality of his life experiences. in my case we should add to this two things: political experiences none of you has ever had and the task nobody else would assume, of cleaning up all the shit and of trying to keep it from hitting the fan. What little help you have given me with the latter is all that i can recall getting.

you will note that i am not sending copies of this to those you did. i have no objection to your doing it. i see no point to be gained by going off on another tangeant. gary has no time. he was here and we had a fairly thorough discussion of some of these thing. jns seems to have detached himself. from this i assume he has enough problems and worries without adding to them.

as each of us looks back on his record, he is, naturally, inclined to see the best of it and perhaps to forget the worst. however, i believe that when i signalled danger, in most cases i was right. i knew about lattimer, i know what is still planned, i have carried this much further than i have been able to tell you, and having signalled the thing that at least in part has become the reality and done it longer in advance than you acknowledge, i am impressed by the monolithic reaction of the critical community, not one of whom said i had seen clearly, not one of whom said that having thought it through an come to any conclusions, what did i think should and should not be done and, because all are not in the straits you and the younger ones are, not one of whom asked if there was any way in which he or she could help or did i visualize any possibilities of making good use of it, as i did and as i am certain was possible - may yet be but cannot be as at the tome it happened.

when i find a mind as exceptional as yours unwilling to consider those things, which is seperate from coping with them, i find a new dimension to frustration. you (and you are not the exception) simply will not think outside the relatively narrow confines of the scholarly approach you have taken. thus when you deal with a rough equivalent of your life in the lab. you are brilliant an successful, truly exceptional. but as i see it, you do this in a vacuum. both in general and with regard to the instant matter, of which you have yet to display any sign of thinking it through. this dismays me more than i can tell you especially because you are as bright as you are. but in all its reflections to me, and i sure hope i am wrong, it is to you like other things in test-tubes and computers. to me it is not, which in part accounts for the style and manner to which you take legitimate exception. what you do not realize is that it makes no difference, commercially and in terms of commercially-acceptable presentation how this subject is presented. the decision is policy, and in my three experiences with it, counting two books with dell as one, the record is 100 % against you. now this is not to say that i disagree with you. you have a short memory if you do not recall the efforts i have made to arrange editing in the rough-draft state, after which it becomes a physical and mechanical impossibility for us. vince, for example. an will all the time she has had for other things, including thornley and garrison, no offer from sylvia after she read the panel part of pm and when i asked her, she was too busy. and matt herron. i could probably think of more.

now let me give you an example of your incorrect appraisal of the reaction to the done of my letters, which, in general, is a correct comment you make. you err in taking it out of context. first let me brag:it worked and works, an second, it in no case began that way. our most important breakthroughs have been a direct result of putting some of these people in a position they find intolerable, by what you describe as insult. an in the present case, where you have a typo an use lattimer instead of graham, you can't imagine how wrong you are. it simply has been beyond my physical capacity to keep you(pl) informed, but by accident hr and grs were witness to some of it. graham phoned me, discussed some of the things with me, and is writing an answer. i anticipate he will write other things first. i never expected any answer from ,arshall or lattimer.

one of the differences between us here is that i am trying to forestall more or greater evil and you are indifferent to such matters, despite the serious limitations, the two most obvious being neither influence nor funds, things would be a lot worse than they are if my percentages were not as godd as they are or, to put it another way, ~~if~~ because i am alone in having tried. i think this is no special credit to me, but i also think it is not to the credit of others.

because you have not thought this through, there is little point in my starting from scratch and trying to reason with you. i simply repeat what i have said, i think you should say nothing to cyril and above all not encourage him. if you do and if you turn out to be wrong you will not forgive yourself and i will not help you find excuses. first of all, let the other side make their own mistakes. if theycontinue as they are now going, there is a possibility that, although small, is the first in years that we may yet get powerful allies. second of all, you say nothing cyril does not know without your telling him. and the fact remains that there are many, many possible harms that can come from him even looking at the stuff, much more than i have indicated. i am truly shocked that you have not seen at least one possibility after lattimer's statements. one that i never mentioned. but because you are, as you should have been, blunt, and i respect you the more for it, i also will be, aware of some of the interpretations that will be put on it or can be. when i needed, and as the record shows, urgently needed, a technical-expert witness for the clothing suit, which was a great success in any event, i asked cyril. he refused on the straightforward ground that it would cost him money and he was already turning down things that were cisting him money and kudos. his language was more polite, but when you are here you can see that correspondence. when i anticipated the current situation at least a year ago ( and I cannot be proud of letting it then slip my mind as long as it did), i thought and evolved what i thought and think is a foolproof and dramatic way of breaking this thing open. i told him neither of us could do it alone but that together we could. he never responded. among other things, this makes me wonder about his motives, what he is really in this for. i wonder about this further when i know he has read the first two part (in order of writing) of p.m. and i have kept him privy to some of the later stuff, and he know i have done more on this aspect than all others put together, and deals with everyone but me on it, beginning with the ctia until sylvia warned him out of that. ther is more for which i do not take the time.

we all have egos, we'd be sick without them.but there is something you have not realized, and that is that except for some of the younger of you, who are as close to selfless as one can be, there is enormous and permeating selfishness in the senior (in age) critical community, in some cases dusguised with some skill and deliberateness. here you have another reason for my sending this to you alone. this is, so far as i am concerned, not an effort to defame anyone but to state a problem that makes other problems to be coped with. i am interested in more than my survival. i desire our survival --someplace besides with those test-tubes and computers.

you have not seen the new last part of p.m. but you know some of the fact in it. it is not only the fact but how it is put together. believe me or not, and i expect you to try and hold me to book if i am wrong, there is virtually nothin i do not already have on paper that cyril can learn from seeing this stuff, benefit as he will from what he may remember or on which he may refresh his mind from what i have let him know and have. there is a possibility of a press reaction that some of you may find welcome. i am more concerned about the adverse consequences. nobody believes the warren report, and someone now saying no more than that is wrong in itself serves no real end. not any more. it has been years since I8ve even heard a fink dare agree with it. on the other hand, whike i had and have the greatest respect for and faith in cyril's professional competence, i have had a most distressing personal experience with his blindness or lack of acuteness, sharp as he is when he talks and impressive as he is in every way. he did not understand the panel report in any way. i had one sent to him from n.o. the monday after we got it. i made the copies for him and nichols personally. i then had to tell him what it means! if you don not believe tjus, when you are here you can <u>hear</u> it. i was so shocked that i taped it as an historical record, for to me the abdications of the professionals has always been a terrible thing. you may recall i addressed this in the epilogue to WWII. now, this is what we want to leave the future to? I have been able to bring about a situation where i have actually been invited to ask for access to this stuff through a professional like cyril and

i notbonly have not but without changes i cannot now anticipate, will not. i mean <u>officially</u> invited. because you have not though this through, you do not realize the complexity of the present situation or of its evil potential. you have a good point in the coincidence of the nichols hearing. i was not aware of it.

i have no interest in being on the eason or spann shows now and apparently none have aired lattimer. i have ot will have tapes of all the appearances i know he has made, some i have not yet been able to listen to.

from my point of view, and i am aware of the personal feelings and emotions that can and may have influenced it, i think the present bad situation is 100% attributable to the selfishness and personal ambition of the older critics, and i do not mean to imply a single exception. there is variation in degree and capability only. we could have done something about the great stupidity of which you have not thought, their use of lattimer and his stupidity, which exceeds my prior estimate of it. only selfishness prevented it. this is going to-has already begun to -change my attitudes and what i will and will not do. incidently, grs recommended it,independently, when he was here.

i read your letter earlier. i will now skim it., with paragraph nos.

1. suppose wecht makes it evident or makes it possible for others to make it evident who the bad guys not, or that the bad guys are the good guys? have you considered that this might be the end product? have you, in fact, asked why this was done at all when there was never lessinterest and absolutely no public clamnor?

you can not evaluate the letters to ned and cyril without having seen theirs or what, in addition, each did (esp. ned) and did not do. if you think i gave cyril offense, how do you think i feel when he accused me of panhandling him, which i did not. on your point of arguing with me about judgement, others have, so you are wrong. adk hr, grs or even jp on a lesser scale. it is the comfort you take, i imagine subconsciously, because you eschew the more unpleasant aspects of survival with this subject. i would welcome more than an explanation of why you not only shot at an unattached melon, but why you did not explain it in the paper and more, why of all the things you could have done you were impelled to do that. I think I asked these questions also. when you addess what makes for a bad situation withing the critical community, why not assess what your melonry did, how much real anguish it cost, how much time it wasted for so many, and what its consequences could have been if it had been publihsed. in every case to which you make even indirect reference, i begun with quiet, polite letters. they did not good, as they also did not good with some of the agencies. ignored or not, they said something, made a records, and if what i fear comes to pass I have every intention of using them. as i have told those involved in advance. and it is the last thing i want to do. but it may become necessary. if it does, i have not wasted all these last years of my life and any prospect for any kind of further only to avoid what will seem necessary if and when it does. so far as the situation getting worse, show me how it can for me or in any relationship with whomever you may have in mind. msrshall can't rurn around. he may not go farthur forward. what was to have been nexg is at least delayed. but i still expect it. and in doing what i could about that, i also did what i could to help cyril get a better reception if what i so muchfear comes to pass. to quote a famous physict of the future, so there.

3 to a drgree you are right on 1. but very wrong. he has medical competence that rules your appraisal out. in order to get this written while your letter is fresh, i have not examined your enclosed biblio, but i will so i can fill out what i have on him. he discloses some of his bircher politics in several of the things I have, one of which i either sent you or asked if you want. the one on similarities-booth-lhc and the medical world news letter. you do not list his inrernational surgeon piece. i can lend it if he did not send it to you. i have the SF Chron story from jw. you missed an important thing in it besides its brevity (they did l ay a real egg on this one). l is a fool. not only does it follow that jbc would have been squatting, but he actually said that for what the critics say the shot going the other way would have had to come from the floor! the times story and its and l's angle and lead would have been different if graham had not cinsulted me( and despite what you so clearly think i told him to speak to cyril and gave him all cyril's phones. I also asked him to ask cyril to phone me. he spoke to me after he spoke to cyril. cyril did not. inseatd he made a record of telling me to call him reverse, as he had before. the last two times i tried he never retured the call, hence i wrote and told him i would not. you should know that cyril also knows that i am almost always home and he can call me. it is the opposite

of what you say and seem to think. i am filing that blibio under lattimer. i have two files under autopsy on this, a separate one on the press.... while i was filing it so i would not forget, a stray thought came to me. you may have some doubts about my feelings about motive, may not have thought about such things, which most of us would prefer not to. nichols is an egomaniacal nut. but he has done much work, good or bad, taken time, spent money. show me one bit of work cyril did, one thing he ever did to help the rest of us know or understand, one thing he did of any kind that would not help him professionally. where he would not get public attention, i know of no case where he had not refused. he knows what i have developed and proved about the medical stuff. he may not understand himself, but I am confident that he yearns to be the man who alone and unassistend broke the biggest casein his field in history-and to reap its rich reward.

5. your reactionpersuades that you do not understand my reasoning and your conclusions are childishly out of context. there is nothing we can do to control what the other side says, but there is no need for us to help them. do not forget that we have an earlier record. i applied for that suff the first day it was possible in 1966 and have gone to court on some. I also practised what i preached on this, as on not going to court on the memo of transfer and other autopsy things even when bud changed his mind still another time and offered to handle the case.

p.2, par 1: i intend no offence when i think the worst possible choice of words is for you to say you have thought. you simply have not thought this is true. you are like haliburton who climbed mountains simply because they were there. same with doing things right. if it is wrong for cyril to do this in the present context and situation, how can i make it right by talking to him? or are you suggesting that when he wound not send me a page from a standard text on each, spectro and neutro, even when he promised, and each time i took time from things to ask again, and each time his response was only to tell me how great I am and how much everyone is indebted to me-but never to send me these two pages from standard texts in his possession, after his refusing to help me in any way with any of my work in his discipline, being willing only to picl my brains, I should now give him all the work i have done at great cost only because those of you who have not thought it through have a child-like notion that his saying the wr was wrong will be a great benefaction? horseshit. it is past time for me to be selfish, and on this simple basis alone, asidefrom the other things i have indicated, I am quite prepared to be. there is no "lrgally relevant" position for him to box in. when i was in that positive, he told me to fuck myself. how can the government be "in an indefensible position" if they deny him anything? when did this ever concern them? and on what basis, with all the thinking, do you even suggest government?when will you really think? there are no legall requirements for him to meet. read the contract again. it is 10% optional. it is not he, with all his professional competence, but i who found the proof of the illegality of the contract, but he also would not help in a suit on that years ago.

i cannot tell you waht to do and what not to do (your next paragraph). you say i am forgiving. if you do this and it turns out as i fear, and especially if before you show the thought and comprehension your lletter does not show, i don't think it will be a question of forgiving. it will be a question of your own conscience. and i do not think i would be inclined to be forgiving. not of antiOintellectualism by an intellectual.

press: there may be a new think beginning in the times again. don't make and send copies except of local stories and then only if you can do it promptly. the whites are snowed under. eventually they would, but they cannot do it fast. only local stories and only if fast. in time i may want different versions of the same story, as what was editied out of AP and UPI copy. it is from one story alone of the dozen or so i have that i learned that cbs gave lattimer his press conference, and in their better facilities, as subsequent investigation disclosed, their cbs reports studio.

next graph: my ref to the demolition of lattimer et al re pm is hardly its real importance. that it would have done, and the whole operation would have given it an intellectual judo. i have addressed the publishing part to the degree i will. and from now on, you can be certain that my approach will be even more restricted, quite the opposite of what you suggest, in making any of my work available to anyone. you have not lived as I have, made the sacrifices and face the problems, including enormous financial ones, and had your stuff systematically stolen by self-seekers, and you have lived and grown in the corrupt current environment of

modern "scholarship" which accepts, expects and comes to honor dishonesty. you are not aware of the extent of this thievery, not what is worse, the counterproductive use to which so much of it has been put. no, i will work with the couple of you who are still working, but the past the dead, those of the past are a chilling hand on the present and future, so far out of it that they can't do good or give good advice, and still obsessed with a personal ambition any right to which they have foregone by opting financial security. i will not even waste time in those areas any more. i have taken this time with you because i recognize the legitimacy of some of your complaints, because you are one of the few still working, and because your letter warrants response. i do not think i will discuss this further with you, certainly not until you have shown something other than a knee-jerk in the head. i do appreciate your offer and have no doubt about its unselfishness and good intent. i simple disagree with it. i appreciate it more because you can't really afford it, as others, who haven't even thought of it, can.

don't bother looking up my warning. it is not now material or relevant. it is past and there was more than one, and if you didn't get copies of all, i simply forgot to put it in the envelope i usually have addressed to you for such purposes. i expressed no opinions except of the fears i had and i asked each to think of them separately. youmay be aware of the criticisms that i have too fatherly an attitude, or that i seek to impress my ideas on others. there was no single response, not only not from you. and from that, too, i have to learn and despite my character, sure will try.

your letter to the cia is fine.

because of my hand and finances, i asked lm and jg to send these things to you.

this is getting to be too much for the hand. it was taking too long withone hand so intermittently i have used both, with adverse effect. i will go over the clip list separately. on rush, in time, no rush, would like anything on this. id did write him he did respond that he would reply, and he has not. getting thosestills or even a description remains important, so important that even the unlikely seems worth trying. i now know that the footage was edited after the assassination, and not from one person and not from one document. on the poss. of his having another interest in LHo, do not forget to remember his immediate superior, vern rotten, whose wrong phones only are in the notebook. one, as i recall, is of a p.r. and ad agency, not wdsu. or his home. and how odd that LHo could have his home, or that they could send a photog for such chickenshit. and then use it, of all things. or have you not thought of its lack of news value.

you did the right things with epusa. you should make a record and try to get to the bottom onthe off chance someone does intend you hurt.

do not take offense. i mean none. but try and remember that we are involved in a political not a scholarly mess and unless yours is simply an academic interest, you must not ignore the context, as you have in everything in these communications.

since rely